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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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**BY CABLE**

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 10 January 1953

SUBJECT [REDACTED]

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DATE OF INFO.

2. Shortage of Food and Bean Oil,  
Northeast AreaNO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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-2-

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Famine in Liaosi Province

- 25X1 4. [ ] a serious winter famine in northern Liaosi Province had afflicted over 1,100,000 persons representing more than 300,000 families. Pests, drought, windstorms and hailstorms had ruined the crop on about 120,000 ch'ing (7308)<sup>2</sup> of land in this area, and damaged 50 to 80 percent of the crop on about 440,000 ch'ing.
5. Residents of Sian, Fak'u (123-23, 42-31) and Lishu (124-20, 43-18) Hsien were most seriously affected. Over 300 persons died from sickness caused by hunger and cold, and over 100,000 persons moved to cities to beg. The peasants harvested only 40 percent of the crop but are still being pressed for payment of agricultural levies. Few levies have been waived. The Chinese Communist Government, belatedly noting the situation, released 10,000 tons of food. This was inadequate for the famine areas.

Shortage of Bean Oil in the Northeast District

- 25X1 6. [ ] there was a shortage of bean oil in the Northeast Area, particularly in Kirin and Sungkiang. The shortage was caused by the followings:
- a. Serious floods in Kirin and Sungkiang in 1951.
  - b. Increased consumption of yellow beans as food and animal feed which followed decreased production of other foods as a result of the 1951 floods.
  - c. Increase in the yellow bean export to the USSR and Eastern Europe of 20 percent over 1951.
  - d. Government purchase in 1952 of a large number of pigs in the Northeast Area, which caused increased consumption of bean oil as a pork substitute.

- 25X1 7. [ ] as the 25X1 shortage became more severe, 17 hsien in Kirin received no bean oil. [ ] 25X1 the China Food Products Company had acted to purchase new beans, to increase work shifts in all plants capable of processing beans, and to ask the peasants to substitute kerosene for bean oil in lamps.

- 25X1 1. [ ]
- 25X1 2. [ ] Comment. One ch'ing consists of 100 mou.

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